

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26. (Withdrawn)

a3
Claim ~~27~~². (Currently Amended) A flexible member holder, comprising:
a tube,
a shaft extending from the tube,
a first tine at an end region of the shaft defining a first region for receiving a first portion
of a loop of a flexible member, and
a second tine at the end region of the shaft defining a second region for receiving a
second portion of the loop of the flexible member; and
a tissue penetration device slidably received within the tube and configured to extend
between the first and second regions.

Claim ~~28~~². (Currently Amended) The holder of claim ~~27~~¹ wherein the shaft ~~comprises~~
a extends distally from the tube.

Claim ~~29~~³. (Original) The holder of claim ~~27~~¹ wherein each of the first and second
regions comprises a groove.

[
Claims 30-36. (Cancelled)

Claim ~~37~~⁴. (New) The holder of claim ~~27~~¹ further comprising a fixation member to
which the flexible member is attached.

Claim 38.⁵ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the tissue penetration device is configured to receive the fixation member.

Claim 39.⁶ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the fixation member includes a cylindrical region received within the tissue penetration device.

Claim 40.⁷ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the fixation member includes a fin that extends through a slot of the tissue penetrating device.

Claim 41.⁸ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the fixation member includes holes for receiving the flexible member.

a3
cont. Claim 42.⁹ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a slot.

Claim 43.¹⁰ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the tube defines a lumen through which the tissue penetration device is slidable received.

Claim 44.¹¹ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a needle.

Claim 45.¹² (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ wherein the tissue penetrating device includes a beveled tip.

Claim 46.¹³ (New) The holder of claim 37.⁴ further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetration device relative to the shaft.

Claim 47¹⁴. (New) The holder of claim 27¹ wherein one or more of the tines is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 48¹⁵. (New) The holder of claim 27¹ wherein one or more of the first and second portions of the flexible member loop is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 49¹⁶. (New) A flexible member holder, comprising:
a tube,
a shaft extending from the tube and having:
a first region for receiving a first portion of a loop of a flexible member,
a second region for receiving a second portion of the loop of the flexible member;
and

a tissue penetration device slidably received within the tube and configured to extend between the first and second regions.

Claim 50⁷. (New) The holder of claim 49¹⁶ wherein the shaft extends distally from the tube.

Claim 51¹⁸. (New) The holder of claim 49¹⁶ wherein the tissue penetration device includes a needle.

Claim 52¹⁹. (New) The holder of claim 49¹⁶ wherein the tissue penetration device includes a beveled tip.

Claim 53²⁰. (New) The holder of claim 49¹⁶ further comprising a handle for advancing the tissue penetration device relative to the shaft.

Claim 54. (New) The holder of claim 49 wherein one or more of the first and second portions of the flexible member loop is oriented along an axis that is different from a longitudinal axis of the tissue penetration device.

Claim 55. (New) A method of delivering an implant to body tissue, the method comprising:

positioning a first portion of a loop of a flexible member at a first region of a shaft that extends from a tube,

positioning a second portion of the loop of the flexible member at a second region of the shaft,

sliding a tissue penetration device through the tube such that the tissue penetrating device extends between the first and second regions of the shaft.

Q3
cont.
Claim 56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein positioning the first portion includes positioning the first portion of the loop at a first time at a first end region of the shaft, the first time defining the first region.

Claim 57. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein positioning the second portion includes positioning the second portion of the loop at a second time at a second end region of the shaft, the second time defining the second region.

Claim 58. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through the body tissue.

Claim 59. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising retracting the tissue penetration device from the body tissue.

Claim ~~60~~²⁷. (New) The method of claim ~~58~~¹²⁵ further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device such that the tissue penetrating device exits the body tissue at a surface of the tissue after the tissue penetration device has been advanced through the body tissue.

Claim ~~61~~²⁸. (New) The method of claim ~~55~~²² further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through a tear in the body tissue.

Claim ~~62~~²⁴. (New) The method of claim ~~53~~²⁷ further comprising positioning a fixation member in the tissue penetration device.

a3
cont. Claim ~~63~~³⁰. (New) The method of claim ~~62~~²⁹ further comprising attaching the flexible member to the fixation member.

Claim ~~64~~³¹. (New) The method of claim ~~62~~¹⁰ wherein extending the tissue penetration device includes extending the fixation member.

Claim ~~65~~³². (New) The method of claim ~~64~~³¹ further comprising advancing the tissue penetration device through the body tissue such that the fixation member is advanced through and exits the body tissue at a tissue surface.

Claim ~~66~~³³. (New) The method of claim ~~65~~³³ further comprising retracting the tissue penetration device from the body tissue such that the fixation member remains at the tissue surface.
